

EXHIBIT P

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

- - - - - X
CAROL S. MARCELLIN, : CIV. NO.:
individually, and as : 1:21-cv-00704-JLS
Co-Administer of the Estate of :
Charles E. Hollowell, deceased, :
and JESSICA HOLLOWELL-McKAY, as :
Co-Administer of the Estate of :
Charles E. Hollowell, deceased, :
:
Plaintiffs, : DEPOSITION OF:
:
:
v. :
:
:
HP, INC., and STAPLES, INC., :
:
Defendants. :
- - - - - X

Transcript of the stenographic notes of the
proceedings in the above-mentioned matter, as taken by
and before ToniAnn Acquaro, a professional court
reporter and notary public within and for the State of
New York, held virtually, on Wednesday, August 7, 2024,
commencing at 1:05 in the afternoon.

Job No. P1-6836748

1 A P P E A R A N C E S: (Appearing virtually.)

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22 Ryan Sohmer, Legal Videographer
23
24
25

I N D E X

WITNESS	EXAMINATION BY	PAGE
DAVID PIPHO	MR. SCHWARZ	8

E X H I B I T S

PLAINTIFF'S	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Exhibit 9	6-Cell Battery Specification for MU06062, Revision 1.3, Bates stamped HP01378 through HP01389	21
Exhibit 10	Defendant's HP Inc.'s Answer to Plaintiffs; Third set of Interrogatories	54
Exhibit 11	August 2, 2023, Deposition Transcript of Warren Atkinson	56

(Exhibits to be produced with transcript.)

F E D E R A L S T I P U L A T I O N S

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and among counsel for the respective parties hereto, that the filing, sealing, and certification of the within deposition be waived.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED by and among counsel for the respective parties hereto that all objections, except as to the form of the question, shall be reserved to the time of the trial.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that the within deposition may be sworn to and signed before any officer authorized to administer an oath, with the same force and effect as if signed to before the Court.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between counsel for all parties present and pursuant to C.P.L.R. Section 3113(d), this deposition is being conducted by video conference, that the court reporter, all counsel, and the witnesses are all in separate remote locations and participating via video conference, that the officer administering the oath to the witness need not be in the place of the deposition and the witness shall be sworn in remotely by the court reporter after confirming the witness's identity; that this video conference will not be recorded in any manner and that any recording without

1 the express written consent of all parties shall be
2 considered unauthorized, in violation of law, and shall
3 not be used for any purpose in this litigation or
4 otherwise;

5 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that
6 exhibits may be marked by the attorney presenting the
7 exhibit to the witness, and that a copy of any exhibit
8 presented to a witness shall be e-mailed or otherwise in
9 the possession of all counsel prior to any questioning
10 of a witness regarding the exhibit in question.

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Good
2 afternoon. We are now going on the
3 record at 1:05 P.m. Today's date is
4 August 7, 2024.

5 Please note that the
6 deposition is being conducted
7 virtually. The quality of recording
8 depends on the quality of camera and
9 internet connection of participants.
10 What is seen from the witness and
11 heard on screen is what will be
12 recorded. Audio and video recording
13 will continue to take place unless
14 all parties agree to go off the
15 record.

16 This is media unit one of
17 video-recorded deposition of David
18 Pipho taken by counsel for the
19 plaintiff in the matter of Carol S.
20 Marcellin v. HP, Inc. and Staples
21 Inc., in the United States District
22 Court of Western District of New
23 York, Case No. 1:21-cv-00704-JLS.

24 This deposition is being
25 conducted remotely using virtual

1 technology.

2 My name is Ryan Sohmer, I
3 represent Veritext Priority One, I
4 am the videographer. The court
5 reporter today is ToniAnn Acquaro,
6 also from Veritext Priority One.

7 I'm not authorized to
8 administer to administer an oath.
9 I'm not related to any party in this
10 action, nor am I financially
11 interested in the outcome.

12 If there are any objections
13 to proceeding, please state at the
14 time of your appearance.

15 Counsel and all present,
16 including remotely will now state
17 their appearances and affiliations
18 for the record, beginning with the
19 noticing attorney, after which our
20 court reporter will swear in the
21 witness and you may proceed.

22 MR. SCHWARZ: Sure. Steven
23 Schwarz, Faraci Lange on behalf of
24 the plaintiffs.

25 MR. LEVITES: Benjamin

1 Levites, Coughlin Betke on behalf of
2 HP.

3 MS. MASTRIANO: Maria
4 Mastriano from Pillinger Miller
5 Tarallo, LLP, on behalf of Staples.

6 D A V I D P I P H O, of 144111 Timbergreen
7 Drive Magnolia, Texas, 77355 after having
8 been duly sworn, was examined and testified
9 as follows:

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. SCHWARZ:

12 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Pipho. My name is
13 Steve Schwarz. I'm the attorney for the plaintiffs as
14 I just announced and I will be asking you the questions
15 today.

16 My first question is: Have you ever been
17 subjected to a deposition before?

18 A. I have.

19 Q. And can you tell me how many times?

20 A. Once.

21 Q. Can you give me a summary of what type of
22 case that was that you testified in?

23 A. It was related to notebook computers.

24 Q. And what was the factual situation with
25 regard to that litigation; in other words, what about

1 notebook computers?

2 A. The electrical design of notebook
3 computers.

4 Q. Was it a personal injury, a wrongful
5 death case or was it a patent case or was it some
6 other?

7 A. Actually, I don't recall the details of
8 the case.

9 Q. What was your role in that case?

10 A. Providing expertise on electrical design.

11 Q. So you have been through this process
12 before. You understand that you have to try to give
13 all answers verbally and not shake your head or make
14 gestures so the court reporter can take it down. We
15 want to try to do our best that I'll try not to talk
16 over you and you should try not to talk over me so the
17 court reporter has a clean record and she can take down
18 everything we say, okay?

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. We can take a break whenever you want to.
21 We'll probably take a break at least every hour, but if
22 want to take a break sooner than that, just let us
23 know, you'll just have to answer the question that is
24 pending, okay?

25 A. Okay.

1 Q. Did you do anything to prepare yourself
2 to give testimony today?

3 A. I guess just understanding, reviewing the
4 statement that I had previously made, but the -- the
5 scope, from what I understand of this, is pretty
6 limited. Based -- it's based on previous discussions
7 with Lee. So, yeah, very limited, just trying to
8 recall discussions with him.

9 Q. And by Lee you are talking about
10 Mr. Atkinson?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And did you review Mr. Atkinson's
13 testimony?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You did not, that's correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Well, we're going to review it together
18 so that will be your opportunity to do it, I guess.
19 You weren't so that will read Mr. Atkinson's testimony
20 before you signed an affidavit in this case?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So you have no idea as to what
23 Mr. Atkinson testified to with regard to his
24 discussions with you?

25 A. Only the general topic.

1 Q. And what was that general topic as you
2 were told?

3 A. Battery counterfeit.

4 Q. Can you summarize for us your education
5 after high school?

6 A. Sure. I went to Devry Institute of
7 Technology in Irving, Texas, and have an Associate's of
8 Applied Science in Electronics.

9 Q. Okay. After you'd completed your
10 education where the first place you worked?

11 A. The first place I worked was Advanced
12 Surveillance Technologies in the Dallas, Texas, area.

13 Q. And what was the nature of your job at
14 that employer?

15 A. It was assembling camera surveillance
16 systems.

17 Q. How long did you work there?

18 A. Approximately six months.

19 Q. And where is the next employment you had
20 professionally?

21 A. It was professionally, it would have been
22 in Houston at Compact Computer Corporation.

23 Q. And what was your roll at Compact when
24 you started there?

25 A. Electronic technician repairing

1 motherboards, computer PC motherboards.

2 Q. How long did you work at that position at
3 Compact?

4 A. It was from '94 to 2000 in that role.

5 Q. And were you in the same position from
6 '94 to 2000 with Compact?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what happened in 2000 then? What did
9 you do then?

10 A. Moved to a Notebook engineering group,
11 testing Notebook peripherals.

12 Q. Was that still with Compact?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And when you say testing Notebook
15 peripherals can you explain that in layman's term, what
16 is that?

17 A. Any kind of accessories that we offered
18 commercially at the time. So memory upgrades, external
19 drives, things like that.

20 Q. What about batteries, were you involved
21 in batteries at all?

22 A. No.

23 Q. After you took on that position at
24 Compact in about 2000, what is the next thing you did
25 after that?

1 A. I moved to the quality organization,
2 supporting failure analysis of field issues.

3 Q. What is failure analysis?

4 A. It's trying to understand the root cause
5 of the issue.

6 Q. And in your failure analysis work, did
7 you look at any battery failures?

8 A. Typically not. They would go to a
9 different -- a different team. If it were related to
10 the electrical design, maybe the charging of the
11 system, I maybe involved, but not within the battery
12 itself.

13 Q. How long did you work in the quality
14 department at Compact until you took on another
15 position?

16 A. I am actually still in the quality roll.

17 Q. Okay --

18 A. Now.

19 Q. At any point was Compact acquired by
20 Hewlett Packard?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And when was that?

23 A. It was around 2000 when I was in the
24 accessories group.

25 Q. And have you remained then in the quality

1 department at HP then since HP acquired Compact?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. So that would be somewhere around 24
4 years?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And has your -- what is your title in the
7 quality department?

8 A. It's still electrical engineer. I had
9 moved to a people manager role for a period of time,
10 but then back to electrical engineer.

11 Q. And are you still doing failure analysis
12 then?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is the -- the mission or the charge
15 of the quality group at HP that you work in; in other
16 words, what do they do?

17 A. It is to ensure that our customers are
18 supported with any kind of problems that may arise with
19 their PCs.

20 Q. Now, in your career at HP and Compact and
21 in your education, have you become familiar with the
22 fire hazard that can occur with lithium ion batteries
23 when they overheat and can enter a condition called
24 thermal runaway?

25 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

1 David, you can answer.

2 A. Yes, I'm generally aware of the issue.

3 Q. And how did you become familiar with that
4 issue?

5 A. Mainly from industry knowledge.

6 Q. And what do you mean by that?

7 A. Reported issues in the industry of
8 the -- the fires that have occurred, and the inherent
9 technology limitations and what those can lead to.

10 Q. And have you had any background in the
11 various safety devices that are designed into battery
12 packs to try to prevent those sorts of thermal runaway
13 situations with lithium ion batteries?

14 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

15 You can answer.

16 A. I am aware, in general, of some of the
17 features within the batteries.

18 Q. And have you performed any of your
19 failure analyses on those types of safety features of
20 lithium ion battery packs?

21 A. I have not. As I previously indicated,
22 we would have focus on the design of the failure
23 analysis within the system itself.

24 Q. And when you say the "system itself," can
25 you describe what you mean by that?

1 A. Typically the system board.

2 Q. The system board is that the motherboard?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. So that would be the motherboard of the
5 computer as opposed to the integrated circuitry in the
6 battery pack, correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Are you familiar with the connections of
9 the motherboard to the battery pack?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And are you familiar with the safety
12 system that HP has used of a thermistor that is
13 directly connected and reports to the motherboard?

14 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

15 David, you can answer.

16 A. I don't know that I have heard the term
17 thermistor, but I am aware that the temperature is
18 reported from the battery back to the system.

19 Q. And is that -- that relationship and
20 the -- the system of reporting the temperature of the
21 battery cells to the motherboard is that something that
22 you have worked on with regard to failure analysis?

23 MR. LEVITES: Objection --

24 A. No --

25 MR. LEVITES: You can answer,

1 David.

2 A. -- it's not.

3 MR. SCHWARZ: Could you put
4 on the record please, what your
5 objection is, Ben, so I can
6 understand that.

7 MR. LEVITES: It's to the
8 form of the question.

9 MR. SCHWARZ: Yes. What was
10 wrong with the form of the question
11 is what I'm asking so I can correct
12 it and not make that mistake again.

13 MR. LEVITES: It was just
14 confusing, compound.

15 MR. SCHWARZ: Okay.

16 Q. Are you familiar with --

17 THE COURT REPORTER: Excuse
18 me. There was no answer.

19 MR. SCHWARZ: Oh, I think he
20 said no, but -- can you read the
21 question back, ToniAnn?

22 (Whereupon, the pending question was read
23 back.)

24 Q. So let me just ask the question again.
25 Have you looked at any failure analysis

1 or have you done any failure analysis with regard to
2 that system of the temperature of the battery cells
3 being reported to the motherboard?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Are you familiar with the programming
6 within the motherboard as to what happens when the
7 temperature exceeds the threshold value in the battery
8 cells?

9 A. I am somewhat aware.

10 Q. Are you familiar with something called an
11 internal controller?

12 A. I have not heard that particular
13 terminology before.

14 Q. My understanding, again from
15 Mr. Atkinson's testimony and from the interrogatory
16 answers that have been provided by HP, that if the
17 thermistor in the battery pack reports a temperature of
18 46 degrees celsius or higher to the motherboard, the
19 motherboard has the capacity of turning the power off
20 to the battery pack. Are you familiar with that?

21 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

22 Can you answer, David.

23 A. Generally, but not the specifics such as
24 the temperature that you mentioned.

25 Q. Okay. But you know that there is some

1 threshold temperature above which if that is reported
2 to the motherboard for some period of time, that the
3 motherboard has the capacity to turn the power off to
4 the battery pack?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And how did you become familiar with that
7 particular aspect of the HP computer, laptop computer,
8 systems?

9 MR. LEVITES: What laptop
10 systems are we talking about, Steve?

11 MR. SCHWARZ: Well, any
12 laptop systems.

13 A. I don't recall. Over time I became
14 familiar.

15 Q. Okay. Have you --

16 A. I don't recall anything specific.

17 Q. Have you analyzed that particular aspect
18 in any of your failure analysis work?

19 A. I have not.

20 Q. Are you familiar with any other safety
21 devices that HP has, requires of its battery packs, or
22 has programmed into its motherboard to prevent lithium
23 ion battery failures resulting in fires?

24 A. I'm generally aware.

25 Q. And what are you generally aware of with

1 regard to what HP has either required in its battery
2 packs manufactured by authorized manufacturers or has
3 programmed into its own system motherboard?

4 MR. LEVITES: Are we still
5 talking about all computers, or?

6 MR. SCHWARZ: I just want to
7 know what he is familiar with, Ben.

8 A. In general that there is a
9 battery-management unit that has various safety
10 thresholds that prevent conditions from occurring that
11 shouldn't -- would potentially result in any kind of
12 problem for the battery.

13 Q. Okay. And one problem for the battery
14 that we are talking about is -- is a fire, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Are you familiar with the cell balance
17 feature that's programmed into the battery packs and
18 required of HP of its manufacturers' battery packs?

19 A. Not in detail.

20 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

21 Q. Do you know what that refers to, cell
22 balance?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What is your understanding of what cell
25 balance refers to?

1 A. My understanding is that it's intended to
2 ensure that the voltage levels of each cell don't
3 deviate significantly from one other.

4 Q. And are you familiar with the concept of
5 overcharging a lithium ion battery?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that the consequences of that can be
8 an overheating scenario?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Are you familiar with -- with something
11 referred to as a fuel gauge that is a part of the
12 battery pack integrated circuitry?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And do you understand what the fuel
15 gauge's role is in managing the battery system?

16 A. In general. It's the -- what we
17 generally refer to the BMU, the battery management
18 unit.

19 Q. Okay. All right. I'm going to now share
20 my screen.

21 Can you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 (Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 11, August
24 2, 2023, Deposition Transcript of Warren
25 Atkinson, was marked for identification.)

1 Q. I've marked as Exhibit 11 in this case,
2 the transcript of Mr. Atkinson from his deposition in
3 this case. And I'm now on page 98 of that transcript,
4 and I want to read to you his testimony and ask you
5 some questions about it.

6 Before I start reading, I just want to
7 clarify again. You have never read his testimony or
8 had his testimony read to you at any time?

9 A. No.

10 Q. So I ask Mr. Atkinson on page 98, line 7.

11 Question: Just so that I am clear, your
12 efforts to do this, this process of investigating
13 unauthorized battery packs for use in the HP Pavilion,
14 was that done for purposes of litigation only.

15 And his answer was yes.

16 Now my first question to you then,
17 getting away from the transcript, are you familiar with
18 that term "unauthorized battery packs"?

19 A. I am.

20 Q. And what does that term mean to you?

21 A. To me it means that it is not an HP
22 design or adheres to the necessary or implements the
23 necessary safety features.

24 Q. So you have an understanding that HP has
25 outside manufacturers that manufacture its battery

1 packs; is that correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. And HP has specifications that those
4 outside manufacturers must follow in regard for it to
5 be an authorized HP battery pack?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And those specifications include the
8 safety devices that are required by HP to be built into
9 the battery packs in order for them to be authorized?

10 A. I would expect so, yes.

11 Q. And some of those safety features are
12 designed to prevent overheating of batteries and
13 potential thermal runaway of the lithium ion battery
14 cells, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Going back to Exhibit 11, the transcript,
17 starting on line 13, still on page 98.

18 Question: So other than your efforts to
19 study unauthorized battery packs and whatever
20 functionality they had that you did in litigation, you
21 are not aware of any similar process going on within HP
22 where unauthorized battery packs were being studied for
23 purposes of, say, safety and warning consumers not to
24 use these products.

25 Answer: Well, I am not aware of any

1 other study with an HP for these other -- for these
2 other battery packs.

3 Questions: Right.

4 Have you --

5 Did you inquire as to whether --

6 And then I stop.

7 Now, on page 99, line 1.

8 Question: Did you take any action in
9 preparation for today to find out whether there was
10 some other unit within HP that was doing that function
11 outside of purely for litigation.

12 And Mr. Betke had a question -- had a
13 question saying "Or would you know as part of your
14 work?"

15 And then Mr. Atkinson answered: I am not
16 aware of any or study for -- any other study on
17 unauthorized battery packs.

18 Question: But my question is did you
19 inquire of anyone else in the company to find out if
20 there was something you are aware of that is
21 actually -- I'm sorry, something you are unaware of
22 that is actually occurring with these unauthorized
23 battery packs are being the studied for purposes other
24 than litigation?

25 Did you inquire of anyone about that

1 topic?

2 Answer: No, I've had discussions with
3 other people on this, but I am not aware of any other
4 activity that actually -- to actual analyze these
5 battery packs.

6 Question: When you say you've had
7 discussions, again, I don't want to know any
8 discussions you've had with lawyers, but, in other
9 words, have you had any discussion within the company
10 generally outside of the litigation process about the
11 potential hazards associated with using these
12 unauthorized battery packs because they lack certain
13 safety features?

14 Answer: Yes.

15 Question: And when did you have these
16 conversations and with whom again outside of litigation
17 context.

18 Answer: The question about how we can --
19 about what we might be able to do to discourage use of
20 third-party batteries.

21 Question: Yes.

22 So that's what I understood the concept
23 was, but my question is, who did you discuss that with
24 and when.

25 Answer: I talked to few people over the

1 last four years on this. The last four years on this.

2 Question: So, we have when.

3 Who were the few people that you talked
4 to.

5 Answer: Another person who -- I have to
6 name a name, David Pipho.

7 Question: Do you know how to spell that,
8 please?

9 Answer: P-I-P-H-O.

10 Question: Where in the HP system is
11 Mr. Pipho housed?

12 Answer: We works in quality, HP quality
13 group.

14 Question: Where is that located?

15 Answer: In Houston.

16 Now, Mr. Pipho, the reason that you're --
17 we asked to depose you is to ask you about both the
18 conversations you had with Mr. Atkinson on this topic
19 and any other knowledge you have on this topic.

20 You've -- you've signed an affidavit
21 saying you have no recollection of ever talking to
22 Mr. Atkinson about this topic except a very vague
23 recollection. Is that still your testimony under oath
24 today?

25 A. Yes.

1 MR. LEVITES: Steve, before
2 we go on, I want to point out it's
3 peep-POE, not PEEP-poe.

4 MR. SCHWARZ: Can you say
5 that again, because I think I
6 screwed that up.

7 MR. LEVITES: No problem.
8 It's peep-POE. It's a hard second
9 P.

10 MR. SCHWARZ: Peep-POE.

11 MR. LEVITES: Correct.

12 Right, David.

13 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

14 MR. SCHWARZ: I'm sorry. My
15 apologies for that.

16 Q. I'm going to continue on now to page 101.

17 Question: Can you recall the name of
18 anyone else that you had this conversation with?

19 Answer: Yes. With -- no, I'm trying to
20 remember specifically. I can't remember a name that --
21 I'm trying to remember a specific conversation that I
22 had with someone, but at least I am trying to remember
23 a specific discussion.

24 Question: You are having trouble
25 remembering who you talked to.

1 Answer: Yeah. I am trying to put in
2 context -- I'm trying to remember a specific
3 conversation and how and what exactly we talked about.

4 Question: So, the only name you can give
5 me is Mr. Pipho.

6 Answer: Yes. Right now, yes.

7 Question: With regard to your
8 discussions with Mr. Pipho, do you know if any action
9 was taken by HP to further those discussions after you
10 had the discussion with Mr. Pipho?

11 Answer: I don't know if there -- I don't
12 know if there is anymore further action. No, I don't
13 know.

14 Question: Do you remember why it was
15 that you chose Mr. Pipho to discuss this particular
16 topic with?

17 Answer: I am aware of other incidents we
18 had with aftermarket batteries or third -- or
19 unauthorized batteries.

20 Question: I am sorry. I didn't catch
21 your answer.

22 You are saying that you knew he was aware
23 of that problem as well.

24 Answer: Yes.

25 And how did you understand that he was

1 aware of this problem in addition to you being aware of
2 it?

3 Answer: I don't know.

4 Question: Did you communicate with
5 Mr. Pipho any of the knowledge that you had gained from
6 your analysis of the unauthorized battery packs in
7 litigation?

8 Answer: Litigation, yes. Roughly.

9 Question: So in other words, you gained
10 certain knowledge from your work on a particular legal
11 case about the functionality or lack of functionality
12 of some of these unauthorized battery packs and that
13 information you then used to have this discussion with
14 Mr. Pipho?

15 Answer: Yes.

16 Question: And your goal in doing that
17 was to see if there was something that HP could do to
18 prevent those types of unauthorized battery packs that
19 lacked that functionality from operating in the HP
20 systems?

21 Answer: Yes.

22 Question: Did you have this discussion
23 with Mr. Pipho one time or multiple times?

24 Answer: Probably multiple times.

25 Question: And did Mr. Pipho ever

1 communicate back to you what, if anything, he or others
2 at HP were doing to address the concerns that you had
3 raised?

4 Answer: We discussed ideas about what
5 might be possible, yes.

6 Question: Did you communicate with
7 Mr. Pipho information about the lack of safety
8 functionality you were finding inside of these
9 unauthorized third-party battery packs?

10 Answer: I did.

11 Question: And what did you convey to him
12 on that topic?

13 Answer: That these battery packs are
14 void of even authentic reporting. That the battery
15 packs are -- some of these battery packs will sacrifice
16 multiple standard safety features.

17 Question: And some of those standard
18 safety features would be the thermal protection
19 shutdown process that we talked about?

20 Answer: Yes. The -- sacrifice almost
21 everything that HP would require for a battery pack.

22 Question: And that would include the
23 cell balancing function as well?

24 Answer: Yes.

25 Question: And even though these battery

1 packs -- these counterfeit unauthorized battery packs
2 lacked all of those safety functions, they were still
3 able to function within the HP Pavilion Series laptops?

4 Answer: Yes.

5 And you have been aware of this and HP
6 has been aware of this you said over four years?

7 Answer: I am thinking about five or six
8 years. The prevalence of the uses has become
9 significant.

10 Question: To your knowledge has -- is
11 Mr. Pipho, did you say?

12 Answer: Yes.

13 Has Mr. Pipho communicated back to you
14 any effort within HP to provide information to
15 purchases of HP laptops of this danger that you are
16 describing of these completely functional battery packs
17 lacking all of the safety devices HP requires that
18 would work in an HP laptop.

19 Then there's some objections. He doesn't
20 answer that question.

21 I move on to when the pop-up that you
22 described -- meaning, a message that the computer
23 operator -- well, let me just stop there. Let me go
24 back.

25 So now that I read that testimony to you,

1 Mr. Pipho, do you have -- has that refreshed your
2 recollection that you had discussions with Mr. Atkinson
3 on the topics I just read about?

4 A. Again, very -- very vague discussions.

5 Q. Okay. You have vague recollections or
6 very vague discussions?

7 A. Yeah, vague recollection of discussion
8 on, you know, what could possibly be done on a system
9 level.

10 Q. All right. So let me start with the
11 first question.

12 Before you had the discussion with
13 Mr. Atkinson, what was your level of knowledge of the
14 fact that there were unauthorized battery packs that
15 were functional in laptop HP computers that lacked the
16 safety features that HP required of its authorized
17 battery packs?

18 A. Just a general awareness.

19 Q. Well, how did you become generally aware
20 of that?

21 A. Through discussions that I've overheard
22 over time, you know, being involved in the quality
23 team.

24 Q. So the quality team at some point had
25 meetings, and in those meetings there was a discussion

1 that there were unauthorized battery packs that were
2 functional in HP computers, but lacked certain safety
3 devices?

4 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

5 You can answer, David.

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And tell me what you recall about the
8 purpose of these discussions?

9 A. Yeah, I -- we're talking, you know,
10 maybe -- maybe 10 years ago. Yeah, I can't say I
11 recall.

12 Q. Okay. So at least approximately 10 years
13 ago discussions occurred within the quality team of an
14 awareness that there were unauthorized battery packs
15 lacking safety features that were being used in HP
16 laptop computers?

17 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

18 You can answer, David.

19 A. Yes.

20 MR. SCHWARZ: And what's the
21 nature of that objection, please?

22 MR. LEVITES: To the form of
23 the question.

24 MR. SCHWARZ: And what was
25 wrong with the form of that

1 testimony?

2 MR. LEVITES: It referred to
3 prior testimony in a way that was
4 not consistent with that testimony.

5 MR. SCHWARZ: Okay. Except
6 he answered yes so I guess that
7 would overrule your objection.

8 Q. And within the quality department then
9 was the substance of this discussion trying to figure
10 out ways to prevent these unauthorized battery packs
11 from being used in HP laptop computers?

12 A. That was not the specifically context of
13 the discussions, no.

14 Q. Well, what was the specific context, if
15 not that?

16 A. General quality issues.

17 Q. Well, what -- what general quality issues
18 were related to these unauthorized battery packs that
19 lacked these safety devices?

20 A. The discussions were a mixture of general
21 quality issues, and one of those general quality issues
22 was the -- the presence of unauthorized batteries.

23 Q. Well, did you discuss the hazards
24 associated with the fact that these unauthorized
25 battery packs were being used and they lacked certain

1 safety devices?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And what discussions do you remember
4 having about that topic?

5 A. General discussions on what at a system
6 level could be done to identify those unauthorized
7 batteries.

8 Q. And that would involve what are called
9 authentication systems, right?

10 A. I believe so, yes.

11 Q. And what authentication systems did HP
12 discuss 10 years ago with regard to the ability for the
13 computer to be programmed so it would recognize
14 unauthorized batteries?

15 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

16 You can answer, David.

17 A. I'm not aware of the detail of what was
18 done.

19 Q. Did you have discussions within the
20 quality group about the various different types of
21 authentication systems that were available at that
22 time?

23 A. No, I was not part of any of those
24 discussions.

25 Q. Who at HP in the qualify department was

1 leading the discussions on the potential for installing
2 authentication systems in the HP laptop series?

3 A. I'm not --

4 MR. LEVITES: Objection. He
5 just testified he was not part of
6 that discussion.

7 Q. Well, the discussions you had was what
8 could be done to prevent the use of these unauthorized
9 battery packs, correct?

10 A. That was the general discussion.

11 Q. And the discussion then was installing or
12 programming laptop computers so that they would
13 potentially recognize unauthorized battery packs,
14 correct?

15 A. I believe that is the case.

16 Q. All right. So were those discussions
17 about the various systems available at that time that
18 could be used to do that function?

19 A. No, general decisions on high level
20 what -- what general things could be done.

21 Q. Okay. And tell me at a high level what
22 the discussion was about the general things that could
23 be done?

24 A. Things such as could we mechanically
25 lockout a battery, you know, a high level discussion of

1 ideas. And you're correct, I believe that they did
2 conclude some -- some type of software authentication
3 was the -- was the correct methodology, but I was not
4 part of those specific discussions.

5 Q. Are you aware of who was involved in
6 specific discussions about installing or programming a
7 batter authentication system into the HP laptop series?

8 A. I am not.

9 Q. Now, you mentioned that another option
10 that was discussed was locking out. And is that, in
11 other words, internalizing the battery so that the user
12 could not easily replace a battery?

13 A. So that would be more difficult for a
14 counterfeiter to mechanically replicate the HP battery.

15 Q. Okay. So was the idea that it would more
16 difficult for a counterfeiter to get to the battery so
17 they can reverse engineer it, or was it -- or did it
18 also include it being more difficult for a user, a
19 purchaser of a laptop, to actually replace their own
20 battery without going to someone professionally to do
21 that job?

22 A. It was to make it more difficult for an
23 unauthorized battery manufacturer to replicate the HP
24 design.

25 Q. And what were the -- the ideas on how to

1 do that, in other words, how would you make it more
2 difficult to replicate the HP or the HP authorized
3 batteries?

4 A. One thing that was discussed was an HP
5 emblem embossed on it mechanically.

6 Q. So, in other words, this would be a
7 method of identifying the HP authorized batteries that
8 could not easily be replicated by the counterfeiter?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. So it would not involve making it more
11 difficult to replicate the function of the battery, it
12 would be the branding on the battery pack itself?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Were there any -- any other ideas that
15 you recall being discussed of ways to either discourage
16 counterfeiting or discourage the use of unauthorized
17 battery packs by purchasers of HP laptops?

18 A. Yeah, I don't recall.

19 Q. You mentioned that there was a discussion
20 of authentication systems, correct?

21 A. Yes, I -- I've heard the term.

22 Q. But that was part of the discussion
23 that -- that you recall having with the quality people?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. All right. And those discussions

1 occurred at some point before you had these
2 conversations with Mr. Atkinson?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And do you recall having any discussions
5 with Mr. Atkinson yourself about what was going on in
6 the quality department concerning these unauthorized
7 batteries before he contacted you about what he
8 discovered in litigation?

9 A. No.

10 Q. How long have you known Mr. Atkinson?

11 A. Probably around 10 years or so.

12 Q. When Mr. Atkinson contacted you to
13 discuss this, his discoveries of these unauthorized
14 battery packs that lacked certain safety devices, had
15 already been familiar with Mr. Atkinson before that
16 contact?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And is Mr. Atkinson correct that you were
19 also familiar with the fact that these unauthorized
20 battery packs that were being used in HP laptop
21 computers lacked certain safety devices?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And was that something that was discussed
24 by the HP quality team that you mentioned at the
25 meeting?

1 A. It was.

2 Q. And this -- this was something that HP
3 then was aware of you're saying approximately 10 years
4 ago?

5 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

6 You can answer, David.

7 A. Yes, that the general problem, yes.

8 Q. Well, the general problem that we are
9 talking about that HP was aware of 10 years ago was
10 that there were unauthorized battery packs that were
11 functional in a HP laptop computer that lacked safety
12 devices that HP required of its authorized battery
13 packs, correct?

14 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

15 You can answer, David.

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And do you have any knowledge as to -- or
18 withdraw that question.

19 During those discussions 10 years ago
20 about these battery packs that lacked safety devices
21 that were functional, was there discussion as to how HP
22 had learned that information?

23 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

24 You can answer, David.

25 A. I'm not aware.

1 Q. Who was present at the meeting that
2 you're describing where 10 years ago these unauthorized
3 battery packs that lacked safety devices was discussed
4 by the quality team?

5 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

6 You can answer, David.

7 A. Yeah. It's older quality core teams that
8 are -- that I don't recall any of the specific members.

9 Q. Who was your supervisor at the time that
10 you had that meeting?

11 A. It would have been probably have been
12 Carol Scalf.

13 Q. Harold --

14 A. Carol Scalf.

15 Q. Can you spell that?

16 A. S-C-A-L-F.

17 Q. And was Ms. Scalf at the meeting?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Were you leading that meeting when this
20 discussion occurred 10 years ago?

21 A. I was not.

22 Q. How many people were at the meeting?

23 A. Maybe five people.

24 Q. And you can't recall any of those five
25 people?

1 A. I -- I honestly would have to go back and
2 try to look through older meeting notices. I don't
3 recall.

4 Q. Was the -- the meeting that you're
5 referring to 10 years ago to discuss these unauthorized
6 battery packs lacking safety features, was that one of
7 the topics of that meeting or was that the only topic
8 of that meeting?

9 A. One of many --

10 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

11 You can answer, David.

12 A. One of many topics.

13 Q. Okay. And do you recall whether there
14 was just one meeting about that topic or more than one
15 meeting?

16 A. I believe I've only heard that come in
17 the one meeting.

18 Q. And do you recall any subsequent meetings
19 after that where any solutions to that problem were
20 discussed by the quality team?

21 A. I do not.

22 Q. Now, after you had the discussion with --
23 withdraw that question.

24 The meeting that you're talking about 10
25 years ago or so of the quality team where that was

1 discussed, that occurred before Mr. Atkinson called you
2 to discuss what his findings were in the litigation
3 process, correct?

4 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

5 You can answer, David.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And do you recall approximately how much
8 time passed between when you recall this quality team
9 discussion and you then were contacted by Mr. Atkinson
10 on the same topic?

11 A. Yeah, maybe around five years.

12 Q. Five years later?

13 A. (Indicating).

14 Q. Okay. And in -- yes?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. That's what I said, you can't nod. The
17 court reporter needs your verbal answer.

18 So in the five years between when you
19 recall the quality team discussion and Mr. Atkinson
20 called you, do you have any recollection of having any
21 other discussions or doing any other work or reading
22 any memos that discussed this unauthorized battery
23 problem and ways to try to solve it?

24 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

25 You can you answer, David.

1 A. No.

2 Q. And then so you had the meeting with the
3 quality group to discuss that topic and then about five
4 years later Mr. Atkinson called you to discuss the same
5 topic?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was Mr. Atkinson present at the meeting
8 10 years ago?

9 A. I don't believe so.

10 Q. Did Mr. Atkinson tell you why he was
11 calling you about that topic versus someone else in the
12 company?

13 A. No.

14 Q. And what is your recollection of the
15 discussions you had with Mr. Atkinson on this topic
16 when he called you approximately five years after the
17 meeting that you discussed with the quality team?

18 A. Just generally how it was becoming more,
19 I guess, prevalent of the use of third-party batteries
20 not necessarily counterfeit and what could possibly be
21 done at a system level to identify the use of non-HP
22 batteries.

23 Q. Now, did Mr. Atkinson reveal to you what
24 he had found in his investigations with regard to these
25 unauthorized battery packs?

1 A. What specifically are you asking?

2 Q. In other words, did he tell you that what
3 he testified to that I read to you, that some of these
4 unauthorized battery packs were sacrificing all of the
5 safety devices and they did not include those safety
6 devices?

7 A. He -- he mentioned general lack of safety
8 features, but we didn't talk in detail about any
9 specific features.

10 Q. Well, did you understand what the safety
11 features he was referring to were designed to protect
12 against?

13 A. I am generally aware, yes.

14 Q. And that would include fires, right?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So after Mr. Atkinson -- now -- withdraw
17 that question.

18 At the time that you recall the initial
19 discussion, the 10-year-ago quality team discussion,
20 was HP at that time aware that these unauthorized
21 battery packs lacked the safety devices that were
22 intended to prevent fires?

23 MR. LEVITES: Objection. He
24 is not here to speak for HP, Steve.

25 MR. SCHWARZ: That -- that is

1 not a proper objection.

2 Q. I'm asking him at the discussion of the
3 quality team were -- was the quality team aware and was
4 it discussed that some of these unauthorized battery
5 packs lacked safety features to prevent fires?

6 A. It was a general discussion and I'm not
7 aware of who was or was not aware of additional detail.

8 Q. No. I want to know your recollection of
9 the discussion. In the discussion 10 years ago in the
10 quality team, was information provided that some of
11 these battery packs lacked safety features that would
12 prevent fires?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And in spite of those discussions you're
15 saying that you have no recollection of anything
16 happened after that to try to come up with some way of
17 preventing these unauthorized battery packs lacking
18 safety features from operating in the laptop computers?

19 A. I'm generally aware that there was a
20 methodology that was implemented to highlight if
21 an unauthorized battery or a counterfeited battery was
22 being used in the system and would display a warning
23 message.

24 Q. Okay. So that would be the pop-up as
25 that referred to?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And when did that happen to your
3 knowledge, in other words, when did HP implement that
4 system where a laptop would be -- would display a
5 pop-up message if an unauthorized battery was used?

6 A. Yeah, I don't know exactly when it was
7 put in.

8 Q. Mr. Atkinson said that that occurred in
9 2019. Is that something that you are familiar with or
10 do you have a different recollection?

11 A. That sounds about right.

12 Q. And what is your knowledge of -- of
13 exactly what happens when a purchaser of an HP laptop
14 installs an unauthorized battery in a laptop after that
15 pop-up message was installed? What happens?

16 A. They would receive a message stating that
17 it's an unauthorized battery, is my belief. I don't
18 have specific -- I've not studied that in the detail.

19 Q. Does the laptop continue to function
20 even -- even after that pop-up message is reported to
21 the user?

22 A. I believe so, yes.

23 Q. So all it does is advise the person that
24 it's an unauthorized battery. It doesn't shut the
25 computer down?

1 A. That's my understanding.

2 Q. And does -- do you know what the warning
3 is that is provided other than it's unauthorized
4 battery?

5 A. I don't know. I would have to research
6 that.

7 Q. Okay. Do you know if the -- if the
8 pop-up message indicates that using an unauthorized
9 battery without safety devices could result in a
10 catastrophic fire?

11 A. I'm sorry, could you repeat that?

12 Q. Sure. I misspoke and I apologize.

13 Do you know if the pop-up message warns
14 users of unauthorized battery that continued use of
15 such a battery could result in a catastrophic fire?

16 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

17 You can answer, David.

18 A. I'm not -- I don't believe it goes into
19 that level of detail.

20 Q. Are you aware of the -- the technology
21 that is utilized in this new system with the pop-up
22 message to recognize an unauthorized battery?

23 A. I am not familiar with any detail.

24 Q. Are you familiar with the concept that
25 the motherboard can query the battery pack and seek

1 certain information from the battery pack that if it
2 doesn't match what the motherboard is expecting that it
3 would display this message?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that the general method that you
6 understand that HP implemented in 2019?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Are you aware of how long prior to 2019
9 the technology to recognize that type of -- of the
10 query and response method was in existence prior to
11 2019 -- let me withdraw that question.

12 Are you familiar with how long that
13 technology that HP implemented in 2019 was available
14 prior to 2019?

15 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

16 You can answer, David.

17 A. I am not.

18 Q. So, in other words, at the time that you
19 had the discussion 10 years ago, which was before 2019,
20 right? Ten years ago would be 2014, approximately; is
21 that correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. So the quality assurance discussion that
24 we had that you've mentioned previously in 2014, was
25 there any discussion of similar technology being

1 available at that time?

2 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

3 You can answer, David.

4 A. Yeah, I'm not aware of any -- any further
5 follow-on discussion based on the initial one.

6 Q. Now, the -- the pop-up message and the
7 query-and-response technology that was implemented in
8 2019 as Mr. Atkinson said, that was implemented on
9 newly-manufactured laptops, correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Was there any effort to make that
12 technology available on previously-sold HP laptops?

13 A. I don't recall the detail, but I believe
14 it's not technically feasible.

15 Q. So it's not technically feasible to
16 update a prior laptop with software that would perform
17 that function?

18 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

19 You can answer, David.

20 A. I only know that my -- it would have
21 needed to update the battery software and that's not
22 something that's possible.

23 Q. The battery software, are you referring
24 to the software in the battery pack or the software
25 within the laptop itself that relates to the battery?

1 A. Right, the battery software.

2 Q. The software in the battery pack?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. So, in other words, this -- there has to
5 be something programmed into the battery pack to send
6 the right message back to the motherboard?

7 A. I believe that is the case.

8 Q. Was there any of discussion within the
9 quality group either 10 years ago or after Mr. Atkinson
10 called you again approximately five or six years ago
11 about this problem regarding notifying prior HP laptop
12 users about the dangers of using unauthorized
13 batteries?

14 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

15 You can answer, David.

16 A. I am not aware of any discussion.

17 Q. In the HP quality group, are you familiar
18 with discussions of recalls of HP products?

19 A. I -- I'm -- I've heard of some recalls,
20 yes.

21 Q. And methodology used for recalls is to
22 notify people who have registered their warranties of
23 the existence of a recall?

24 A. I believe that is the case. I'm not
25 involved in recall activities.

1 Q. Which -- which unit or department of HP
2 is involved in notifying previous purchasers of
3 recalls, to your knowledge?

4 A. I'm not sure.

5 Q. When Mr. Atkinson called you -- he
6 indicated he talked to you on more than one occasion
7 about this topic five or six years ago.

8 Do you have any recollection of how many
9 phone calls you had with him?

10 A. On this topic I only recall one, one
11 discussion.

12 Q. And after your discussion with
13 Mr. Atkinson about this topic, which again was four or
14 five years after the meeting you've discussed where
15 this topic was discussed, did you bring the information
16 that Mr. Atkinson provided you to anyone else's
17 attention?

18 A. I did not.

19 Q. So you didn't talk to your quality group
20 that had previously discussed this topic about what
21 Mr. Atkinson told you he had discovered in looking at
22 some of these unauthorized battery packs for litigation
23 purposes?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Why did you not share that with anyone

1 within your group?

2 A. My belief was that he would -- would take
3 that information where it needs to go.

4 Q. That Lee would that, Mr. Atkinson?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. So you didn't think that Mr. Atkinson was
7 providing only you with this information. It was your
8 understanding he had provided it to other people within
9 HP and that they would take some action with regard to
10 what his findings were?

11 A. Yes, I would believe he would.

12 Q. You didn't think that it was your
13 responsibility at that point because you understood
14 that he was sharing that information with other people
15 who had more appropriate job descriptions to deal with
16 this problem?

17 A. That's right.

18 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

19 You can answer, David.

20 Q. And did -- did Mr. Atkinson indicate to
21 you who else he shared this information with?

22 A. He did not.

23 MR. SCHWARZ: All right.

24 We've been going about an hour. Why
25 don't we take a break and I will

1 take a look at my notes and see what
2 else I want to ask you, okay? We'll
3 take about five minutes.

4 THE WITNESS: Okay.

5 MR. LEVITES: See you all in
6 five minutes.

7 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now
8 going off the record at 2:08 p.m.
9 (Brief recess.)

10 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now
11 going back on the record at 2:16
12 p.m.

13 Q. Mr. Pipho, I'm going to share my screen
14 again and show you what I've marked as Exhibit 9.

15 (Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 9, 6-Cell
16 Battery Specification for MU06062, Revision
17 1.3, Bates stamped HP01378 through HP01389,
18 was marked for identification.)

19 Q. Can you see that? Mr. Pipho, can you see
20 that?

21 A. Yes, I can see that.

22 Q. Okay. I'll represent to you that Exhibit
23 9 is a document that was produced in this litigation by
24 your employer HP, and this is entitled 6-Cell Battery
25 Specification for MU06062, Revision 1.3. And I'll

1 represent to you that this is a specification for the
2 battery pack for the computer, the laptop computer
3 that's the subject of this litigation.

4 Are you familiar with these types of
5 specifications that HP has for its battery packs?

6 A. I am familiar with the existence of these
7 specifications.

8 Q. And are you -- have you ever seen this
9 particular specification before?

10 A. I have not.

11 Q. Okay. I just want to turn to the second
12 page of this, which has been marked HP01379. And
13 there's a battery connector pinout section, section
14 3.2.

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Is that something you're familiar with in
18 your work at HP, something called a battery connector
19 pinout?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And this would be the designation of the
22 pins on the battery packs that connect into the
23 motherboard?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Now, this one has a Pin No. 6 that the

1 symbol is B/I. And it says connect to thermistor.

2 Do you see that?

3 A. I do.

4 Q. And are you familiar with what that
5 refers to?

6 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

7 You can answer, David.

8 A. It refers to a device within the battery,
9 I believe, that represents the temperature.

10 Q. And I'm going to show you now the other
11 document that we've marked as Exhibit 10.

12 (Whereupon, Plaintiff's Exhibit 10,
13 Defendant's HP Inc.'s Answer to Plaintiffs;
14 Third set of Interrogatories, was marked for
15 identification.)

16 Q. And this is HP's Answers to Plaintiffs'
17 Third Set of Interrogatories.

18 And question one reads, Describe in
19 detail the designed function of Pin No. 6 on the
20 approved battery pack described in Deposition Exhibit 4
21 at HP -- at page HP 01311, and specifically, what the
22 motherboard is programmed to do if the thermistor in
23 the battery pack connected through Pin No. 6 registers
24 a temperature over 45 degrees Celsius.

25 And the answer provided by HP was, first

1 an objection, and then it says notwithstanding the
2 subject to and without waiving the foregoing, a
3 thermistor attached to the battery cells senses
4 temperature. This thermistor is connected through
5 battery connector Pin No. 6 to the embedded controller
6 on the motherboard. At some temperature above 45
7 degrees Celsius, the embedded controller will inhibit
8 charging to the battery.

9 Do you see that?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. And are you familiar with -- with the --
12 what is described in that answer?

13 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

14 You can answer, David.

15 A. I am. Yeah, I'm familiar with what that
16 can do, yes.

17 Q. In other words, in your quality assurance
18 work, have you encountered -- you said that you did
19 some quality assurance work with regard to batteries
20 concerning the interaction between the motherboard and
21 the battery pack, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

24 You can answer.

25 Q. And that would -- that would be one way

1 to describe what's in this answer, correct, an
2 interaction between the battery pack and the
3 motherboard?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And so it seems to indicate that the
6 thermistor that's in the battery pack would report
7 directly to the motherboard.

8 Is that how you interrupt this?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And it wouldn't report through the to
11 fuel gauge. This would be a separate process where the
12 thermistor reports directly to the motherboard?

13 A. In this --

14 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

15 You can answer.

16 A. Yes, in this specification that appears
17 to be the case.

18 Q. And are you familiar with -- with the
19 technology used to accomplish that interaction?

20 A. Generally.

21 Q. So it says that when the thermistor
22 reports temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius, that
23 something called a embedded controller will inhibit
24 charging to the battery.

25 Do you understand what that means?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And can you describe? In other words,
3 does that mean that if -- if a temperature exceeds
4 45 degrees Celsius that something on the motherboard
5 will disconnect the power to the battery pack?

6 A. I believe that is the case, yes.

7 Q. Do you know how that is accomplished?

8 A. I -- not precisely, no. In general, the
9 embedded controller that communicates with the battery
10 will also communicate with a -- a separate device
11 called a charger, and it would communicate to that
12 charger to stop the charge.

13 Q. And once the charge is stopped, then
14 the -- whatever the condition was that was causing the
15 excessive heat would also stop?

16 A. Yes, that should be the case.

17 Q. Now, if a battery pack, an unauthorized
18 battery pack lacked a thermistor that reported to the
19 motherboard through Pin No. 6, is that something that
20 the laptop, the motherboard would be able to sense or
21 understand?

22 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

23 Are we still talking about
24 this -- this and No. 6, this
25 diagram, this spec?

1 MR. SCHWARZ: Yep.

2 Q. Do you understand the question? I can
3 rephrase it because it probably wasn't very well
4 worded. Let me rephrase it.

5 Do you have any knowledge of whether the
6 motherboard is capable of detecting that it's not
7 getting any information through the thermistor through
8 Pin No. 6?

9 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

10 You can answer, David.

11 A. Are you asking this question generally on
12 any motherboard or for this specific system?

13 Q. Just generally, the technology of a
14 motherboard in general. Is a motherboard capable of
15 detecting that it's not receiving a signal from a
16 component that it's expected to receive a signal from?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So if a -- if a -- an unauthorized
19 battery packs lacked a thermistor as a safety device
20 that was supposed to report to the motherboard, the
21 motherboard could potentially detect that and take some
22 action, such as either a pop-up message or not allowing
23 the battery pack to function, correct?

24 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

25 You can answer.

1 A. It is possible, correct.

2 Q. So that -- that technology could exist,
3 something that could be built into the motherboard to
4 have that reaction when it was plugged into a -- when a
5 battery pack lacked that safety feature, correct?

6 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

7 You can answer, David.

8 A. Yes, it is technically possible.

9 Q. And during your quality meeting ten years
10 ago when the problem of unauthorized battery packs
11 lacking certain safety features was discussed, was that
12 particular solution ever discussed of programming the
13 laptop to shut down when it didn't detect a thermistor
14 sending signals to it?

15 A. No, not that I'm aware.

16 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

17 You can answer.

18 Q. At any point in your career, Mr. Pipho,
19 either -- or any time after the meeting 10 years ago to
20 discuss these unauthorized battery packs problems, did
21 you have any involvement in battery authentication
22 systems that were either contemplated or installed in
23 HP laptops?

24 A. Can you --

25 MR. LEVITES: Objection.

1 You can answer.

2 A. Sorry, can you repeat the question?

3 Q. Sure. At any time -- well, let me
4 withdraw that question.

5 At any time in your career at HP, have
6 you been involved in any way in determining or
7 evaluating battery authentication systems that could be
8 involved in laptops?

9 A. I've been involved in some discussion,
10 yes.

11 Q. And tell me about those discussions with
12 regard to battery authentication systems?

13 A. I recall discussion around different
14 techniques that could have been used in different
15 encryption methodologies. But, honestly, that's not my
16 responsibility and I am not -- I don't have any -- any
17 follow-up on any of that.

18 Q. What was the context that that was
19 brought up in?

20 A. Part of that was -- was the discussion
21 with Lee.

22 Q. So in the discussion with Mr. Atkinson
23 when he called you five or six years ago to talk about
24 these unauthorized battery packs that lacked safety
25 features, you had a discussion about battery

1 authentication systems with him?

2 A. Right.

3 Q. What do you remember about that topic?

4 A. Just that there were different difficult
5 levels of authentication methods. And we had some high
6 level discussion on what -- what would be feasible to
7 implement. But I was not involved in any follow-on
8 discussions with him on that topic.

9 Q. Okay. So you talked to him about
10 technology that existed at least at that time that
11 would allow some identification of an unauthorized
12 battery by the motherboard?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And one of those authentication systems
15 was the system where the motherboard would send a
16 signal and expect some return information to come from
17 the battery pack?

18 A. I believe that is the case, yes.

19 Q. And if that information that came from
20 the battery pack didn't match up with what the
21 motherboard expected, then something could be done in
22 the motherboard to either disable the computer or send
23 a pop-up message to the user?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. LEVITES: Steve, before

1 you ask your next question, can we
2 go off for a sec?

3 MR. SCHWARZ: Sure.

4 MR. LEVITES: Okay.

5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are
6 going off the record at 2:29 p.m.
7 (Off the record.)

8 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are
9 going back on the record at 2:30
10 p.m.

11 Q. When we took a short break there,
12 Mr. Pipho, we were talking about one authentication
13 system of the motherboard sending a query to the
14 battery pack and the battery pack responding with some
15 information that would either match up or not match up
16 with what the motherboard expected.

17 Do you recall that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So that was one of the authentication
20 systems or authentication technology that you talked
21 about with Mr. Atkinson?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. What other types of authentication
24 systems do you recall talking about with Mr. Atkinson
25 about during either the one or multiple phone calls you

1 had with him about unauthorized battery packs lacking
2 safety features?

3 A. Those are the only ones I recall.

4 Q. That's the only authentication system you
5 recall?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you are saying that you have no
8 recollection of any further discussions about
9 implementing authentication systems after that call
10 with Mr. Atkinson?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did you have some understanding that
13 Mr. Atkinson was pursuing that topic with someone else
14 at HP at that time?

15 A. I believe he would be, yes.

16 Q. Do -- do you believe that -- that he
17 would be or do you believe that he was?

18 A. I believe that he would be.

19 Q. All right. So --

20 A. -- I'm not sure that he was.

21 Q. Okay. So you assumed that he was talking
22 to someone else, but you don't know that he was talking
23 to someone else.

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And even though he talked to you about it

1 and he sought you out, you didn't feel that it was your
2 responsibility to share that information with anyone
3 else?

4 MR. LEVITES: Objection. You
5 can answer.

6 MR. SCHWARZ: You have to
7 answer again because I think his
8 objection went over your...

9 A. That's correct.

10 Q. Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. SCHWARZ: I believe those
12 are all the questions I have,
13 Mr. Pipho. Thank you.

14 MR. LEVITES: Maybe we can
15 have five minutes.

16 Maria, are you ready now?

17 MS. MASTRIANO: I don't have
18 any addition questions.

19 MR. LEVITES: Okay. Let me
20 just go over my notes. I think
21 we're probably done, but if we can
22 get back on in five minutes.

23 MS. MASTRIANO: Sure.

24 MR. LEVITES: Thanks. See
25 everyone in five.

1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now
2 going off the record at 2:33 p.m.
3 (Brief recess.)

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now
5 going back on the record at 2:40
6 p.m.

7 MR. LEVITES: Hi, David. I
8 have no further questions for you
9 either, so this concludes your
10 deposition today. Thank you for
11 your time and consideration.

12 Thank you to counsel and the
13 reporter and videographer, and I
14 believe that's all for today.

15 MR. SCHWARZ: Agreed. Thank
16 you.

17 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now
18 going off the record at 2:40 p.m.,
19 and this concludes the testimony
20 given by David Pipho.

21 Total number of media used
22 will be two and will be retained by
23 Veritext Priority One.

24 (Whereupon, the deposition concluded at
25 2:42 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: ss:

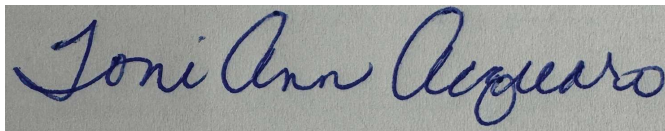
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

I, ToniAnn Acquaro, a notary public for
and within the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the witness whose examination is
hereinbefore set forth was duly sworn and that such
examination is a true record of my shorthand notes.

I further certify that I am not related
to any of the parties to this action by blood or by
marriage and that I am in no way interested in the
outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 7th day of August, 2024.



ToniAnn Acquaro,
Professional Court Reporter
and New York State Notary, 01AC6200255
My Commission Expires January 26, 2025

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[00704 - afternoon]

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[ago - aware]

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[aware - catastrophic]

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Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

Rule 30

(e) Review By the Witness; Changes.

(1) Review; Statement of Changes. On request by the deponent or a party before the deposition is completed, the deponent must be allowed 30 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available in which:

(A) to review the transcript or recording; and

(B) if there are changes in form or substance, to sign a statement listing the changes and the reasons for making them.

(2) Changes Indicated in the Officer's Certificate.

The officer must note in the certificate prescribed by Rule 30(f)(1) whether a review was requested and, if so, must attach any changes the deponent makes during the 30-day period.

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING FEDERAL PROCEDURE RULES ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1, 2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

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